

ZCZC LBBPNSLBB DEF
TTAA00 KLBB DDHHMM

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LUBBOCK TX
300 PM CST WED MAR 5 2003

WRITTEN BY NWS LAKE CHARLES...LA
...CONTINUING SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN TEXAS...

AMATEUR RADIO AND STORM SPOTTERS

WHILE THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS THE MOST SOPHISTICATED
SATELLITE AND RADAR EQUIPMENT TO TRACK SEVERE STORMS...TRAINED
STORM SPOTTERS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN VERIFYING AND RELAYING
THIS INFORMATION.

EACH YEAR...LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES CONDUCT STORM
SPOTTER TRAINING CLASSES FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN NOT ONLY
OBSERVING THE WEATHER...BUT REPORTING IT BACK TO THE NWS.

HISTORICALLY...AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS HAVE BEEN THE BASE OF
STORM SPOTTERS. ALSO KNOWN AS HAM RADIO...AMATEUR RADIO CAN BE
USED TO RELAY CRITICAL WEATHER INFORMATION BETWEEN THE NWS AND
LOCAL COMMUNITIES WHEN TRADITIONAL FORMS OF COMMUNICATIONS SUCH
AS RADIO...TV...AND PHONES BECOME INOPERABLE.

THESE STORM SPOTTER TRAINING CLASSES TEACH AN INDIVIDUAL WEATHER
SAFETY RULES...TYPES OF NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST AND
WARNING PRODUCTS...AND EVEN HOW TO ANTICIPATE SEVERE WEATHER BY
LOOKING AT STORM CLOUDS. MANY OF THESE CLASSES ARE COORDINATED
THROUGH A COUNTY OR CITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...CONTACT THE WARNING COORDINATION
METEOROLOGIST AT YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

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